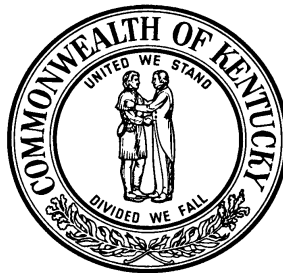


**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
FORMER HICKMAN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2005 TAXES**

April 21, 2006



**CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
FORMER HICKMAN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2005 TAXES**

April 21, 2006

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2005 Taxes for former Hickman County Sheriff as of April 21, 2006. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The former Sheriff collected taxes of \$1,415,420 for the districts for 2005 taxes, retaining commissions of \$57,496 to operate the Sheriff's office. The former Sheriff distributed taxes of \$1,358,016 to the districts for 2005 taxes. No taxes are due to the districts from the former Sheriff and refunds of \$151 are due to the Sheriff from the taxing districts.

Report Comment:

The Former Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The former Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor
Robert M. Burnside, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Greg Pruitt, Hickman County Judge/Executive
Honorable J. W. Moran, Former Hickman County Sheriff
Honorable John Turner, Hickman County Sheriff
Members of the Hickman County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Hickman County Sheriff's Settlement - 2005 Taxes as of April 21, 2006. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the former Hickman County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the former Hickman County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of April 21, 2006, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated July 11, 2007 on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor
Robert M. Burnside, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Greg Pruitt, Hickman County Judge/Executive
Honorable J. W. Moran, Former Hickman County Sheriff
Honorable John Turner, Hickman County Sheriff
Members of the Hickman County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

- The Former Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

July 11, 2007

HICKMAN COUNTY
J. W. MORAN, FORMER SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2005 TAXES

April 21, 2006

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 165,982	\$ 150,878	\$ 585,586	\$ 173,950
Tangible Personal Property	9,776	11,752	37,816	18,318
Intangible Personal Property				9,872
Fire Protection	578			
Increases Through Exonerations	3	2	11	3
Franchise Taxes	50,269	46,691	184,684	
Additional Billings	3	2	10	3
Clay Reserves	49	35	174	52
Penalties	1,624	1,709	5,731	1,673
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>228,284</u>	<u>211,069</u>	<u>814,012</u>	<u>203,871</u>
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	444	465	1,570	505
Discounts	2,395	2,171	8,491	2,710
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	3,271	3,823	11,536	3,427
Delinquent Franchise Taxes	<u>159</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>605</u>	
Total Credits	<u>6,269</u>	<u>6,703</u>	<u>22,202</u>	<u>6,642</u>
Taxes Collected	222,015	204,366	791,810	197,229
Less: Commissions *	<u>9,723</u>	<u>7,431</u>	<u>31,672</u>	<u>8,670</u>
Taxes Due	212,292	196,935	760,138	188,559
Taxes Paid	212,295	197,001	760,155	188,565
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>4</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>17</u>	
(Refunds Due Sheriff)				
as of Completion of Fieldwork	<u>\$ (7)</u>	<u>\$ (104)</u>	<u>\$ (34)</u>	<u>\$ (6)</u>

* and ** See Next Page

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

HICKMAN COUNTY
J. W. MORAN, FORMER SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2005 TAXES
April 21, 2006
(Continued)

* Commissions:

10% on	\$	10,000
4.25% on	\$	575,010
4% on	\$	791,810
1% on	\$	38,600

** Special Taxing Districts:

Extension Service	\$	(21)
Soil Conservancy District		(3)
Columbus Fire District		<u>(80)</u>
(Refunds Due Sheriff)	\$	<u><u>(104)</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

HICKMAN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 21, 2006

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The former Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

HICKMAN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
APRIL 21, 2006
(Continued)

Note 2. Deposits (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the Sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The former Sheriff did not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather followed the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of April 21, 2006, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2005. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 2006. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 15, 2005 through April 21, 2006.

B. Clay Reserve Taxes

The tangible property tax assessments on clay reserves were levied as of January 1, 2005. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was November 4, 2005 through April 21, 2006.

Note 4. Interest Income

The former Hickman County Sheriff earned \$664 as interest income on 2005 taxes. The former Sheriff was in substantial compliance with his statutory responsibility regarding interest.

Note 5. Advertising Costs And Fees

The former Hickman County Sheriff collected \$340 of advertising costs and \$940 of advertising fees allowed by KRS 424.330(1) and KRS 134.440(2). The former Sheriff distributed the advertising costs to the county as required by statute, and the advertising fees will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Greg Pruitt, Hickman County Judge/Executive
Honorable J. W. Moran, Former Hickman County Sheriff
Honorable John Turner, Hickman County Sheriff
Members of the Hickman County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the former Hickman County Sheriff's Settlement - 2005 Taxes as of April 21, 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated July 11, 2007. The former Sheriff prepared his financial statement in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the former Hickman County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statement. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying comment and recommendation.

- The Former Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the reportable condition described above to be a material weakness.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the former Hickman County Sheriff's Settlement - 2005 Taxes as of April 21, 2006 is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Hickman County Fiscal Court, and the Kentucky Governor's Office for Local Development and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crit Luallen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

July 11, 2007

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

HICKMAN COUNTY
J. W. MORAN, FORMER SHERIFF
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

As of April 21, 2006

INTERNAL CONTROL – REPORTABLE CONDITION AND MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

The Former Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

The former Sheriff's office lacked adequate segregation of duties. Due to the entity's diversity of official operations, small size, and budget restrictions, the official had limited options for establishing adequate segregation of duties. Compensating controls may be in place to offset the lack of segregation of duties. However, we were unable to find evidence to document their existence. The following compensating controls could have been implemented to offset this internal control weakness:

- The former Sheriff could have periodically compared daily bank deposits with the daily tax collection sheets and tax receipts ledger. Any differences could have been reconciled. The former Sheriff should then have documented his comparison by initialing the daily collection sheet, receipts ledger, and bank deposit.
- The former Sheriff could have compared the monthly tax reports for property and franchise taxes to his tax receipts and tax disbursements ledgers for accuracy. Any differences could have been reconciled. The former Sheriff should then have documented this by initialing the monthly tax reports and receipts and disbursements ledgers.
- The former Sheriff could have compared the bank reconciliation to the bank balance in the checkbook. Any differences could have been reconciled. The former Sheriff should then have documented this by initialing the bank reconciliation.

Sheriff's Response: No Response.

